

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to Fig. 32 and Fig. 33.

Attachment: One Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and the notice that the certified copy of the priority document was filed in the parent application.

Claims 10-12, 18-19 and 21-28 are pending. Claims 10-12 have been withdrawn. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The drawing was objected to, because “reference character 510 and the associated lead line to not adequately identify the detent of the tether.” The examiner’s objection is unclear because there is no “detent of the tether”, but has been addressed by the amended specification and drawings to the extent understood. As the specification states, the cap detent 510 “comprises a cap retaining ring 511 for holding the fuel cap 545 (see Fig. 33), a cord-shaped flexible tether 515 extending from the cap retainer ring 511, a vehicle attachment component 533 for attaching the support end 518 of the tether 515 to the lid panel 540 (see Fig. 33), and detachable components 535.” (Page 41, lines 10-15.) It is unclear if the examiner wishes to have a reference character to identify the detent on the cap retainer ring, if the examiner finds the inconsistent use of arrows on lead lines (from reference character 510) to the overall detent to be inadequate, or if the examiner wants something else identified. In any event, the specification has been clarified so that the “detent 513” is identified as “detent 513 (of the cap retainer ring 511);” and to clarify that reference number 510 (for the cap detent) indicates the cap detent overall. The drawings have been modified in FIG. 32 and 33 so that the lead line to the cap detent 510 includes an arrow. It is believed that the detent 513 (of the cap retainer ring 511) is adequately identified in the drawings, and does not need amendment. In view of the

amendments to the specification and drawings, the examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the drawing objection.

Claims 18 and 26 were objected to because the examiner wanted the comma deleted after the word “retainer.” Claims 18 and 26 have been amended. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-19 and 21-28 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The specific items of indefiniteness identified in the office action have been remedied in the above amendments. More particularly, the examiner states that in claim 18, line 6, the use of “an end” is indefinite. Claims 18 and 26 have been amended to recite “the second end” instead. Also, the examiner states that it is unclear how the detent and engaged portion and vehicle attachment portion are secured to the vehicle, etc. Claims 18 and 26 have been amended to recite a cap retainer “ring,” and further structure of the detachable component and engaged component are recited. Support for the amendments is located in the application as filed, for example, page 44, lines 8-12, 15-24; page 45, lines 12-16; and elements 511, 513, 513b, 515, 533, 534, and 535 in FIG. 32-34. It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are sufficiently definite. The examiner is therefore respectfully requested with reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

The office action states that claims 18-19 and 21-28 appear to avoid the art of record. Accordingly, it is submitted that the claims are patentable.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia K. Nicholson', written over a horizontal line.

Cynthia K. Nicholson

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